

BACKSTAGE AT THE NATO SUMMIT BUCHAREST APRIL 2008



Heads of State and Government from the 26 NATO nations, partners and other representatives from major international institutions met in Bucharest, Romania on 2-4 April 2008 to discuss NATO enlargement and operations in Afghanistan and Kosovo. The Summit was NATO's biggest ever, in terms of partners and international organizations present.

Our colleague, Ioana Damian, volunteered to help at the Media Center.

It was a great feeling to be in the middle of the most important political event that took place in Romania. I think most of us realized this after everything was over, because at that time we were preoccupied to handle all the requests. I've met some extraordinary people and we managed to be an efficient and helpful team, as many of the journalists appreciated us.

Ioana Damian, AC Iasi

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Friday, April 11, 2008, American Corner Iasi organized the event “The Earth, where to?”, whose theme was the problem of global warming.

The participants were about 60 students from 3 high schools in Iasi: “G. Ibraileanu” Highschool, “Gh. Asachi” Technical High

School and The Economic and Administrative High School, accompanied by their teachers.

Some of the students made a presentation of the successful school projects developed in their high schools and drew the attention on the effects of the global warming and suggested some measures for diminishing them.

In the second half of the meeting, the participants were invited to watch the documentary “An

Inconvenient Truth – A Global Warning”. The screening was followed by a debate on what or who is responsible for these unprecedented climate changes.



EVENTS HIGHLIGHT: MARCH 20– APRIL 15**MARCH 25:
LUCY STONE,
CHANGING OLD
IDEAS
— short play and
debate—**

School in Iasi staged a short play on Lucy Stone and her

For this last activity included in the **WOMEN WHO CHANGED THE WORLD** project, the English teacher Anca Patrichi from the “V.Alecsandri” High

School in Iasi staged a short play on Lucy Stone and her



contribution in promoting the women's rights.

The actors were some of her 8th grade students from the same high school; their colleagues and some students from “Gh.I.Brătianu” Secondary School, along with two other English teachers assisted the performance(30 participants).

When the play was over the audience was challenged to a discussion on how women's status has changed since Lucy Stone's time.

**MARCH 28: DEVELOPING THE
AMERICAN CITY: PHOTOGRAPHIC
MOMENTS WITHIN URBAN
CHANGE
—presentation and discussion—**

17 students from the “Octav Băncilă” High School in Iasi, accompanied by their English teacher, assisted a presentation on the American City, offered by Alyssa Cwanger and Bruce O'Neill, Fulbright scholars conducting research in Bucharest. Alyssa Cwanger, who is a photojournalists, presented some of the pictures she took while working for several news venues in the U.S. Bruce O'Neill, a PhD Student in Cultural & Social Anthropology at the Stanford University, tried to frame these pictures, speaking of their political and economical context.



At the beginning of April, 20 students from 3 local high schools in Iasi participated in a series of workshops on the prevention of drug consumption among teenagers. The workshops took place at the AC Iasi, as a result of the corner's partnership with the National Anti-Drug Agency, in Iasi with The Prevention, Evaluation and Therapy

Anti-drug Center. Adelina Luntraru, Student in Economics at the “A.I.Cuza” University in Iasi and Isabelle Cobzaru from the Prevention, Evaluation and Therapy Anti-drug Center moderated the meetings.

**April 2nd, 3rd and 10th:
Anti-marketing – preventing
drug abuse**

The main focus of the workshops was to find out how teenagers see an efficient campaign on preventing drug abuse. They have been asked to make the outline of a prevention drug abuse cam-

paign. Later on, they described activities, materials, messages and everything they thought will be the most appropriate and efficient for their campaign. They had very good points of view and great ideas for campaigns.

The purpose of this was to gather as much information on the elements of an efficient drug prevention campaign addressed to teenagers, in order to make, in the future, many efficient campaigns that touch teenagers and make them conscious of the danger and effects of drug abuse.

Adelina Luntraru,
project coordinator

APRIL 14: "AL.I.CUZA" UNIVERSITY IASI TO NORTH GEORGIA STUDENT EXCHANGE

- digital video-conference -



The students really appreciated the opportunity and enjoyed the experience. We also gained some insight as to how this level of technology could help us deliver distance education in a relatively open format. George Martin Izzo, coordinating professor

On April 14 American Corner Iasi organized a DVC that gave the opportunity to a group of 15 students from the "Al.I.Cuza" University Iasi, Department of Economic Sciences, to meet the students from Cottrell School of Business in North Georgia.

The meeting was coordinated by **George Martin Izzo**, Associate Professor, Marketing Fulbright scholar at the "Al.I.Cuza" University Iasi.

From the University in Georgia **Mike Powell**, Dean of the Cottrell School of Business and **Max Burns**, Professor at the same school participated in the discussion. The main topics of the meeting were related to business opportunities in Romania and in the United States. The meeting was a success and the students from both schools expressed their wish to participate in similar meetings in the future.

ILLUSTRATED AMERICAN IDIOMS (to) CLOWN AROUND



Definition: To act or behave like a clown; to act silly; not to pursue a task with the intention of succeeding.

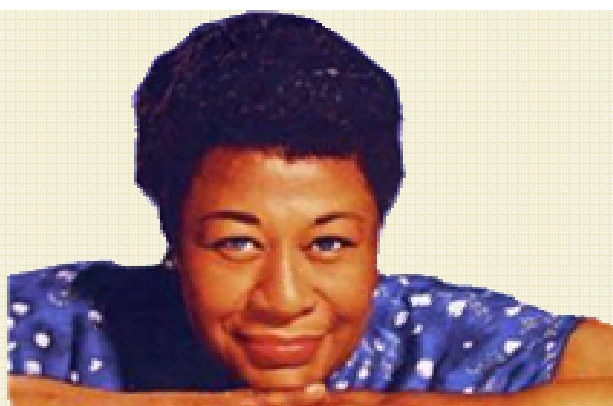
Illustrative sentence: The team began to clown around and they lost the game.

Paraphrase: They lost because they didn't take the game seriously.

Source: D. Curry, *Illustrated American Idioms*, book belonging to the AC Iasi collections

BORN IN APRIL: ELLA FITZGERALD, "THE FIRST LADY OF JAZZ"

Famous for her musical flexibility, melodic improvisation and scat singing, Ella Fitzgerald is considered one of the greatest jazz singers of the twentieth century. She was born on April 25, 1918, in Newport News, Virginia. As a young girl in 1934, she won an amateur contest at Harlem's Apollo Theatre, and her prize was a chance to work with drummer and band director William "Chick" Webb. Webb was so impressed with Fitzgerald's



talent that he asked her to join his group. She did, and while working with him recorded two of her most famous songs, "A-tisket, A-tasket" and "Undecided".


When Webb died in 1939, Fitzgerald took over the band and led the group for the next three years. She then began working with Norman Granz and toured the United States, Europe South America and the Far East. She signed with Norman Granz's Verve Records and produced a series of immortal hits.

Source:

Susan Altman, *Extraordinary African-Americans*

(book belonging to the A.C. Iasi collections)

USEFUL LINKS

The  Internet provides great resources for teachers of English as a foreign language. Here is a website with a set of links/resources for teachers suggested by our colleague Janina Galas from the American Information Resource Center in Krakow. The site includes subjects such as: American History, Geography, American Government and Civics, Holidays, Language and Teaching Tolerance. It also provides easy lesson plans for teachers, crossword puzzles, quizzes, audio files with speeches and in-depth materials on variety of subjects related to the U.S.

<http://krakow.usconsulate.gov/studyus/resources-for-teachers.html>

Enjoy it and thanks a lot to Janina!

I LOVE



TO LEARN



Molly Peugh is a Peace Corps volunteer teaching English classes at "B.P.Hasdeu" Secondary School in Iasi. As a result of her experience in teaching English as a foreign language, Molly has compiled a collection of photocopyable materials including more than 200 pages of vocabulary builders, word searches, crossword puzzles, reading comprehension exercises and much more. All these materials are going to be gathered in a book to be used by anyone teaching or learning English. A copy of this book will soon be available for study at the American Corner Iasi.

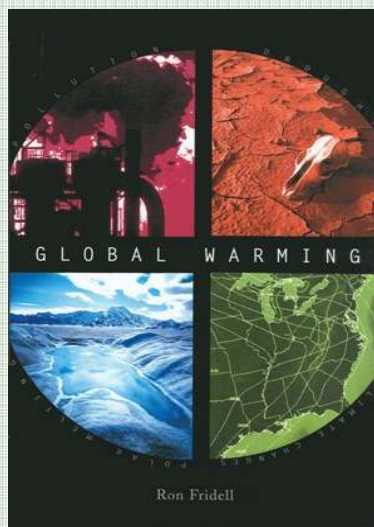
I put together this resource book because I needed it. Being a

volunteer English teacher for 2 years and essentially a supplement to the regular classroom teachers, I needed to put together my own lessons and had to find the resources to use with those lessons. Additionally, I found myself tutoring children outside of school and wanted to put together a manual to use while working with them. I wanted English to be fun and knew that review would be helpful as well. I began compiling materials from photocopyable manuals and from free sources on the internet. Anything that I didn't find, I made myself.

There are many ways to use these resources. Many of them can be used for independent learning while those same activities can be adapted for use with an entire class. You might find all of them useful or might decide that there really isn't anything here you can use. Either way, I wanted to make them available.

Molly Peugh

BOOK OF THE MONTH



Ron Fridell:
GLOBAL WARMING,
Franklin Watts, New York, 2002

Picture yourself stepping into a time machine and stepping out at the end of the 21st century. What kind of world will you find?

While the experts agree that the planet is warming, they do not agree on why or how much warmer it will get. They also disagree on the possible consequences of a warmer Earth.

Author Ron Fridell examines this global warming controversy and explores the urgent search for answers. He looks at the research on global warming from every possible angle and details what effects it could have on the life of the planet and how we can deal with these effects.

(excerpt from the front flap of the book)

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